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Notes from the Stacks, February 2017

Friends of the Brooks Library

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Greetings from the James E. Brooks Library,
The Central Washington University Libraries provide quality resources and innovative services to stimulate creativity, intellectual curiosity, and to facilitate lifelong learning and research within the communities we serve.

These words provide focus towards our efforts in fulfilling the library’s mission, a mission to serve all our constituencies, be they on our main campus, at our Center campuses, or in the wide Kittitas County community. This year we are pleased to offer two programs that reach out and invite our friends near and far to enjoy literary and community celebrations with us: the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read, and An Evening at the Brooks Gala and Silent Auction.

The NEA Big Read grant awarded to Brooks Library, along with partners Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series and the CWU Veterans Center, have several events planned around author Tim O’Brien’s seminal work, The Things They Carried. This semi-autobiographical collection of short stories was inspired by O’Brien’s experiences as a reluctant soldier in the Vietnam War. The Big Read grant allows us to collaborate with other departments on campus and at the Centers, and with partners throughout the community on a variety of events. The official kick-off of the program will be held February 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the Clymer Museum and Gallery of Art in downtown Ellensburg, and will feature a few words from Mayor Rich Elliott, Rob Fraser, a local Vietnam veteran, and Ellensburg public library director Josephine Camarillo, along with music and refreshments. The Kittitas County public librarians have designated The Things They Carried their selection for the 2017 One Book, One County community read; several local libraries, churches, and book clubs are, also, holding open discussions. Other scheduled events include an exhibit at CWU’s Museum of Culture and Environment, poetry readings, musical performances, a film series, panel discussions, and events commemorating the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech, “Beyond Vietnam.” The series will culminate with a visit from the author in late April. All events are free and open to the public. For more information about these and other Big Read events, please visit the website of listings at http://bit.ly/cwubigread.

It’s hard to believe we’re gearing up for our fourth annual Gala and Silent Auction, which will be held Saturday, April 8, from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. It’s one of our favorite evenings of the year, a time when we can throw open our doors and welcome the entire community in to enjoy the library in a different light. It’s an evening of music, art, student performances, delicious food and drink, a silent auction filled with wonderful goods and services from local businesses, and dancing in the stacks to the tunes of the Ellensburg Big Band. This fun evening allows us to showcase our beautiful building and resources, visit with new and old friends, and raise funds to support a student scholarship in our LIS program. In addition, this year we will be dedicating a portion of the proceeds to creating a Family Friendly space in the library that will benefit our student/parents while introducing childhood literacy to the little ones through storytelling and programming. Please do join us for this fun event. Tickets are available for purchase at cwu.edu/tickets, by calling 509-963-1429, and in person at Wildcat Tickets in the SURC.

The Gala is always timed to kick-off National Library Week, held April 9-15 this year. National Library Week is a celebration of the American Library Association (ALA), and embraces the ALA Libraries Transform initiative, a campaign intended to shine a bright light on the way libraries are able to evolve with the times in order to meet the needs of their patrons. Whether it be by continually assessing and adjusting our collection, providing information literacy instruction, adding to the materials and equipment available for circulation, or planning literary events and Gala celebrations, the faculty and staff at Brooks Library strive to meet the challenges of providing relevant and innovative library services to our campus and centers, our wider Kittitas County community, and the greater central Washington region.

The best to you for the New Year,
Patricia Cutright

NOTES FROM THE STACKS

JAMES E. BROOKS LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

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Brooks Library offers two courses for dual credit through the College in the High School program. LIS 110 Research Fundamentals is a one-credit course designed to teach students the best practices for research at the college level. LIS 201 Foundations of Library and Information Science is a three-credit course for those interested in pursuing a career in Library and Information Sciences.

In addition to the credit-bearing course, Brooks library hosted one Running Start class’s visit to campus this fall. These high school students received instruction and got a tour of the library as part of their campus visit.

Inspired by what they had learned about the dual credit program in the high schools, and seeing a need for professional development for secondary school teachers, four librarians from Brooks library developed a clock hours program online for public school teachers to earn professional development hours. This online course, called Teaching Digital Citizenship, includes four modules for teachers to learn about how to encourage and teach their students to be responsible, critical consumers of information. The modules include information about copyright, open educational resources, Information seeking behavior, resource evaluation and importance of citations. This program is being piloted with teachers in the CWU College in the High School program in partnership with CWU continuing education.

It has been a busy autumn for Brooks Library Archives and Special Collections staff at Central Washington University. We’ve been teaching use of archives for academic research to History and Anthropology classes, processing recently acquired materials, and adding digitized collections to ScholarWorks.

Additionally, the Archives staff has continued to present in the residence halls and other locations. Presentations titled History of the Hall present the history of the building and some biographical information about the namesake in the dormitories. Most dorms on the Central Washington University campus are named for distinguished former faculty, and students are always interested to learn about the namesake. This program began in 2014 with two presentations and has really grown in popularity. Another presentation that is very popular around Halloween is Cereal with Killers, where Archives and Special Collections staff lectures about historic murders in Kittitas County. Over 150 students attended eleven different presentations and there were always interesting discussions and follow up questions after the lectures. These lectures have been enhanced by the research of graduate student, Anne Dennon, and Archives and Special Collections student worker, Samantha Whitney.

Outreach beyond the University community also helps promote the mission of CWU Archives and Special Collections. In September, Sean Lind, Carlos Pelley, and Marty Blackson presented and shared ScholarWorks Community Content to the Roslyn, Ronald, Cle Elum Heritage Club. The audience of over forty residents of upper Kittitas County enjoyed learning about content on ScholarWorks and responded well. There were some emotional moments as some folks heard voices of their relatives preserved in interviews form as far back as the 1970’s. Staff even corrected some information onsite and added names to some unidentified photos. This also led to increased usage of our online content.

In October CWU Brooks Library Archives and Special Collections hosted the second annual Ellensburg Archives Crawl. This event includes a tour of all the local museums and historic entities. Archives staff co-authored an article about the crawl in Easy Access, The newsletter of Northwest Archivists Group, titled How to Have a Successful Archives Crawl on a Shoestring Budget.
We are honored to welcome Helen and Susan Waddle to the Friends of the Brooks Library Board of Directors. Helen’s late husband, Richard, built quite a resume in History and Library Science here at Central. He was Library Director and Dean during the time I attended in the 1970s. He later preferred to work in Acquisitions, a position he held returning from his sabbatical in 1981 until his retirement in 1993. Helen and Susan are active supporters of libraries in Ellensburg; I had the pleasure of working with them at various book sales and with the Friends of the Ellensburg Public Library during their annual Book Club Tea. It will be delightful to hear their perspectives as we discuss the future direction of the Friends of the Brooks Library.

The Friends of the Brooks Library Board of Directors had their retreat on January 23rd. The retreat has become an annual event. This year we met to celebrate our progress and set our direction for the coming year. Continuing with the focus and guidance from last year’s retreat, we went through the process of revisiting the Constitution and discussing what makes a “Friend of the Library.”

The mission of the Friends of Brooks Library is as follows: “The purpose of the Friends of the James E. Brooks Library shall be to recruit friends for the library, to promote the library’s visibility by demonstrating its value as the center of a learning enterprise, and to secure resources, including the maintenance of an endowment fund with the Central Washington University Foundation, that supports instruction, research and leisure reading. In pursuing these goals, the Friends will consult with the Dean, the faculty, and staff of the library.”

We had two successful book sales last fall and look forward to doing it again November 3rd & 4th in 2017. Anyone reading this newsletter is invited to add your name to our roster of members supporting the purpose of the Friends of the Brooks Library. We appreciate all contributions to our effort and welcome donations of cash, books for the book sale, volunteers, and attendance at Brooks Library events such as the Gala April 8th and our annual meeting June 6th. Thank you for your interest in the happenings at the Brooks Library.

Diane Huckabay

For information about the Friends of the Brooks Library, contact Diane Huckabay (509-933-4051) or Maureen Rust, Student Engagement and Community Outreach librarian (509-963-2102).
Save the Date

AN EVENING AT THE BROOKS

Brooks Library Gala and Silent Auction
At Central Washington University
April 8, 2017
7:00-10:30 p.m.